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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/820,552	03/29/2001	Darin Wayne Higgins	108344.00013	4976

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EXAMINER
AMINI, JAVID A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2672	

DATE MAILED: 10/28/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/820,552	HIGGINS ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Javid A Amini	2672	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____ .

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-20* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-20* is/are rejected.

7)☒ Claim(s) *1-20* is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11)☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a)☐ approved b)☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: .

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-20 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Saylor et al. US patent 5,487,139 with published date of Jan. 23, 1996.

1. Claim 1,

As per claim 1 line 4 page 13 "determining a boundary of a geographic region of a first map", Saylor discloses in (col. 7, lines 9-11) that particular location along the vector of the subject address can be readily determined by one skilled in the art using point/slope geometry.

As per claim 1 line 5 page 13 "converting the boundary of the geographic region of the first map into a corresponding boundary of a second map", Saylor discloses in (col. 5, lines 30-35) that the raster scanned images and the vector maps generated from the vector background database (TIGER) are overlaid and aligned, 38 "Overlay Raster Scan and Vector Background Images." This operation can be manually accomplished or, if desired, software can be used to automate the process.

As per claim 1 line 7 page 13 "configuring the boundary of the second map for display.

Claim 2", Saylor discloses in (abstract) that the technique is particularly applicable to use by a utility company wherein the addresses identified are customer residences, each residence being coded with specific X,Y coordinates relative to the vector database. Relevant additional customer information is indexed through a graphical representation of the address which when displayed appears on the raster map at the appropriate X,Y coordinates relative to the vector map.

2. Claims 2,3,4,5 and 6,

Claims 2-6 line 7-20 page 13 "further comprising the act of loading a first map", and "further comprising the act of loading a second map", and "further comprising the act of displaying the first map", and "further comprising the act of displaying the second map", and "further comprising the act of displaying a region of the first map (the first region) and a region of the second map (the second region), wherein the first region is substantially similar to the second region", Saylor discloses in (col. 2, lines 32-48) that the generating method includes the steps of: obtaining a raster image of the existing map; providing a vector database having information characteristic to the territory represented by the rasterized map; displaying a vector map from the vector database, the displayed vector map containing information characteristic to the territory depicted in the rasterized map; substantially aligning corresponding areas of the raster map and the vector map; geo-coding the object database information with X,Y coordinates relative to the vector database, at least some of the X,Y coordinates identifying locations of addresses within the territory depicted by the aligned raster and vector maps; and displaying the raster map with at least one graphical representation of an address located within the territory represented by the raster map, the graphical representation being expandable to provide object database information on the at least one address.

3. Claims 7 and 8,

Claims 7-8 line 20-23 page 13 "wherein the first map is a georeferenced map", and "wherein the second map is a georeferenced map", Saylor discloses in Figs. 1-3 that the storm database 16, which contains the information compiled using the techniques set forth in FIGS. 2 & 3, is referenced to obtain the X,Y coordinate information for the disturbance, 82 "Reference Storm Database For (X,Y) Coordinates of Outage."

4. Claim 9,

As per claim 9 line 24 page 13 "wherein the boundary is associated with a longitude coordinate and a latitude coordinate", Saylor discloses in (col. 5, lines 20-25) that the particular vector database, along with providing information on individual names and addresses, provides latitude/longitude identifiers for each vector, however, the latitude/longitude readings must be converted to X, Y coordinate pairs, 36 "Convert Lat/Lon to X,Y Coordinate Pairs.

5. Claims 10, 11 and 12,

Claims 10-12 line 1-8 page 14 "converts the boundary of the user-selected geographic region of the first map from a first map coordinate system into an intermediate coordinate system, the intermediate coordinate system being georeferenced", and "wherein converting associates a georeferenced coordinate of the first map with a georeferenced coordinate of the second map", and "wherein converting transfers georeferenced coordinate of the first map to a natural coordinate of the second map", the step is inherent because in order to provide the right coordinate, one must convert the results of correlation from XY coordinate to Latitude/longitude and vise versa. Saylor discloses in (col. 5, lines 20-25) that the particular vector database, along with providing information on individual names and addresses, provides latitude/longitude

identifiers for each vector, however, the latitude/longitude readings must be converted to X, Y coordinate pairs, 36 "Convert Lat/Lon to X,Y Coordinate Pairs.

6. Claim 13,

As per claim 13 line 12 page 14 "further comprising receiving a user interaction that creates a new boundary for the first map", the step is inherent because the user must be able to interact with new limitation and add new parameters to georeferenced map.

7. Claim 14,

As per claim 14 line 13 page 14 "further comprising determining a georeferenced coordinate for the new boundary", the step is inherent because the user must be able to interact with new limitation and add new parameters to georeferenced map.

8. Claim 15,

As per claim 15 line 15 page 14 "further comprising the act of determining a georeferenced coordinate for the new boundary of the second map, such that the new boundary coordinate of the second map corresponds with a new boundary coordinate of the first map", the step is inherent because georeferenced coordinates with new limitations will be affecting other maps that are using the coordinates from reference data.

9. Claim 16,

As per claim 16 line 19 page 14 "further comprising configuring the new boundary of the first map for display", the step is inherent because part of configuration is to have the right format for displaying the information. Saylor discloses in (col. 3, lines 8-11) that some of the X,Y coordinates assigned to the object database information identify addresses within the territory depicted by the aligned raster and vector maps.

10. Claim 17,

As per claim 17 line 21 page 14 "further comprising configuring the new boundary of the second map for display", the step is inherent because part of configuration is to have the right format for displaying the information. Saylor discloses in (col. 3, lines 8-11) that some of the X,Y coordinates assigned to the object database information identify addresses within the territory depicted by the aligned raster and vector maps.

11. Claim 18,

As per claim 18 line 1 page 15 "determining a boundary of a geographic region of a first map", Saylor discloses in (col. 7, lines 9-11) that particular location along the vector of the subject address can be readily determined by one skilled in the art using point/slope geometry.

As per claim 18 line 4 page 15 "converting the boundary of a geographic region of the first map into a corresponding boundary of a second map", Saylor discloses in (col. 5, lines 30-35) that the raster scanned images and the vector maps generated from the vector background database (TIGER) are overlaid and aligned, 38 "Overlay Raster Scan and Vector Background Images." This operation can be manually accomplished or, if desired, software can be used to automate the process.

As per claim 18 line 7 page 15 "providing for display the boundary of the second map", Saylor discloses in (abstract) that the technique is particularly applicable to use by a utility company wherein the addresses identified are customer residences, each residence being coded with specific X,Y coordinates relative to the vector database. Relevant additional customer information is indexed through a graphical representation of the address which when displayed appears on the raster map at the appropriate X,Y coordinates relative to the vector map.

12. Claim 19,

As per claim 19 line 12 page 15 "further comprising: displaying a region of the first map (the first region), and a region of the second map (the second region), wherein the first region is substantially similar to the second region", Saylor discloses in (col. 2, lines 32-48) that the generating method includes the steps of: obtaining a raster image of the existing map; providing a vector database having information characteristic to the territory represented by the rasterized map; displaying a vector map from the vector database, the displayed vector map containing information characteristic to the territory depicted in the rasterized map; substantially aligning corresponding areas of the raster map and the vector map; geo-coding the object database information with X,Y coordinates relative to the vector database, at least some of the X,Y coordinates identifying locations of addresses within the territory depicted by the aligned raster and vector maps; and displaying the raster map with at least one graphical representation of an address located within the territory represented by the raster map, the graphical representation being expandable to provide object database information on the at least one address.

As per claim 19 line 13 page 15 "receiving a user interaction that creates a new boundary for the first map", the step is inherent because the user must be able to interact with new limitation and add new parameters to georeferenced map.

As per claim 19 line 15 page 15 "determining a coordinate for the new boundary of the first map", the step is inherent because the user must be able to interact with new limitation and add new parameters to georeferenced map.

As per claim 19 line 16 page 15 "detennining a coordinate for the second map such that the coordinate for the second map relates to the new boundary of the first map", the step is inherent

because georeferenced coordinates with new limitations will be affecting other maps that are using the coordinates from reference data.

13. Claim 20,

As per claim 20 line 3 page 16 "detennining a boundary of a geographic region of a first map", Saylor discloses in (col. 7, lines 9-11) that particular location along the vector of the subject address can be readily determined by one skilled in the art using point/slope geometry.

As per claim 20 line 4 page 16 "converting the boundary of the first map into a corresponding boundary of a second map", Saylor discloses in (col. 5, lines 30-35) that the raster scanned images and the vector maps generated from the vector background database (TIGER) are overlaid and aligned, 38 "Overlay Raster Scan and Vector Background Images." This operation can be manually accomplished or, if desired, software can be used to automate the process.

As per claim 20 line 7 page 16 "providing for display the boundary of the second map", Saylor discloses in (abstract) that the technique is particularly applicable to use by a utility company wherein the addresses identified are customer residences, each residence being coded with specific X,Y coordinates relative to the vector database. Relevant additional customer information is indexed through a graphical representation of the address which when displayed appears on the raster map at the appropriate X,Y coordinates relative to the vector map.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

14. Regarding claims 6 and 19, the phrase "similar" renders the claim(s) indefinite because the claim(s) include(s) elements not actually disclosed (those encompassed by "similar"), thereby rendering the scope of the claim(s) unascertainable. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Javid A Amini whose telephone number is 703-605-4248 (email:javid.amini@uspto.gov). The examiner can normally be reached on 8-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Razavi can be reached on 703-305-4713. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-8705 for regular communications and 703-746-8705 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-306-0377.

Javid Amini
October 18, 2002

MICHAEL RAZAVI
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